

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 4, 6, 9, 10 and 13, “in particular” renders the claims indefinite.

In claim 7, “is formed by a frame box” is not understood in the context of the invention.

In claim 9, there is not antecedent basis for “the external edges”.

Claim 9 is generally unclear and not fully understood. In particular, “and/or edges of the openings or cut-outs of...” is unclear and not fully understood.

In claim 13, there is a lack of antecedent basis for “the transportation fixing”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 7, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ilea et al., US Patent 7,192,066. Motor vehicle door lock component provided for connection to a vehicle door, in which the motor vehicle door lock component comprises a carrier plate 32 whereon locking pieces (34, 100, 42) are mounted, and a lock housing 30 which at least partially surrounds the locking pieces comprising the carrier plate, characterized in that a counter piece formed from the side of the lock housing, which is opposite to the carrier plate is provided in such a way that it co-operates with a connection element (136, 128) in the vehicle door by means of a through opening (132, 134, 128) in the carrier plate. Inside the connection counter piece a bearing is inherently provided for the thread of a bolt extending through the through opening. The carrier plate is formed from a shape-retaining material. As best understood, the carrier plate is formed by a frame box of a motor vehicle door lock.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-4 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilea et al., US Patent 7,192,066, in view of Weis, US Patent 4,930,961.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, the particular claimed form of the counter piece and seat are not provided. However, it is old and well known in the art of connections to use such shaped connecting members to achieve a desired fastening result. Weis provides the claimed structure with counter piece (10, 11), seat 32, and connection element B. Such structure provides a quick lock and release connection, as known in the art. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the device in this way, for the purpose of providing an effective means of a quick lock and release connection, as known in the art.

Regarding claim 4, such a limitation constitutes a product by process limitation, and does not further limit the invention, since what matters is the resulting structure, not the method by which the structure is achieved (see MPEP 2113). Product by process limitations are also found in each of claims 9-14, thus not limiting that particular aspect of the claims accordingly.

Regarding claim 8, although the housing and plate arrangement of Ilea is provided as a motor housing, and not for a catch and pawl arrangement, it would have been obvious to use a similar housing/plate arrangement as in Ilea, modified to a catch and pawl as conventional in the art, for the purpose of providing sufficient housing and connecting structure for a catch and pawl assembly.

As best understood, the subject matter of claim 9 is provided.

Regarding claims 10, 11, 12, and 14, although the claimed coating, transportation fixing with snap-in projection, and noise-reducing layer are not explicitly provided by the combination, the examiner serves Official Notice that such structures are very old and well known in the art of vehicle door components, including latches, for their known utilities, including providing paint and/or seal finish, blocking of sound, and additional means of ease of connection. It would have been obvious to include such modifications in the device, for the purpose of achieving known utility in the design, including providing paint and/or seal finish, blocking of sound, and additional means of ease of connection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK A. WILLIAMS whose telephone

number is (571)272-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit 3671

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Examiner, Art Unit 3673

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